

Readers Bulletin

No 7 January 2014



Hello and a Happy New Year!!!!

This is my first letter as your new Warden of Readers. Only another 4 to write!!!

Who am I?



(I am here for 5 years. 'So much to do, so little time')

I am sure some of you will have put my name into Google and been disappointed! I am a retired local government officer, blessed being married to Joan (38 years!!!), and also two Daughters Rachel and Elizabeth. Licensed as a Reader 1994 to St Ambrose Parish Church Widnes.

What a great privilege to be called and licensed to take on this role. I follow in the footsteps of many Wardens who have undertaken this role, maintaining its functions whilst supporting Readers in the Diocese in a variety of ways, and all difficult acts to follow. Echoing Jean's letter last year I hope you had a peaceful Christmas and that 2014 may be filled with every blessing for you and your families. The year ahead looks really exciting. (At least it does to me!) I hope my enthusiasm and that of your committee members comes over loud and clear at various catch ups during the year. If we can't be enthusiastic working for Christ when can we be? **I have published a schedule of Reader events for 2014 at the end of this letter. It would be really good to meet and greet many of you at some or all of them.**

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PERSONNEL NEWS

Stephanie Ridge our Vice Chair of the committee has moved to Australia at the end of 2013. I would like to thank Stephanie for her contribution, not just here in Liverpool to the Readers but also for her work on national subgroups.

There is now a vacancy. If you are interested please let me know. Its only 3 meetings a year!

JEAN TODD

What can I say about Jean Todd? A committed, caring Reader who passes the baton of Warden on to me. A really hard act to follow. I thank Jean for her commitment, hard work and support to all Readers, and especially to me on handover of the role. I wish her well in 'retirement'!

WENDY POOLEY

Since meeting Wendy I have seen first-hand all that is required from her in supporting Readers, and other groups. As our administrator and committee secretary, Wendy is a fount of much Reader knowledge and I look forward to developing her role alongside mine.

FELLOW READERS

Once again I would like to pass on my thanks for all you do to share the love of God, both in parishes and communities. I remain YOUR servant in Christ, & may God bless you and give you the grace to continue in His service.

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Life Call "Taster" Evening

We had a great response to our first evening at St James House in November. However we now have another evening planned on 20th January 2014. We need your help as fellow Readers, and Chaplains. As the new Warden of Readers it is a joy to be encouraged by the strength and vitality of Reader ministry within our Diocese especially as we look to 2014 and celebrating over 100 years of Reader Ministry in the Diocese'. Promoting a flourishing Reader ministry is a key part of Diocesan Growth Agenda. We have every confidence in the selection, training and support of Readers in the Diocese of Liverpool.



So I am asking for your help, as part of LifeCall. I am hosting a Reader Taster evening on Monday 20th January 2014 at 7.30pm at St Thomas the Martyr, Upholland with refreshments from 7pm. I am writing to ask you to do three things:

- Pray for Reader Ministry
- Actively consider and talk to your incumbent about people in your congregation who you think maybe called to Reader Ministry
- With the support of your incumbent approach the people in your congregation and extend on my behalf a personal invitation for them to attend the next LifeCall Reader Taster event and bring them along.

To book a place or if you have any questions please contact Wendy Pooley on 0151 705 2149 or wendy.pooley@liverpool.anglican.org

Jesus said "Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest"
Please join with me in encouraging new Readers in the field of Reader Ministry.

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Relicensing / MDR

Well done to all who completed this task on time. Can I urge those who will be re-licensed this year to get the paper work back on time? This also applies to the Annual Return Forms that we all receive. Can I also encourage you to record any training that is relevant to your ministry? This includes any secular training that you believe impacts on your work as a Reader and do remember the training you receive in your Deanery Chapter Meetings, along with the usual training events for Readers please see the Diocesan weekly bulletin and Reader webpage for other training that you may find helpful.

And now for something completely different!

Summer Study Evenings 2014

(Summer School refreshed!)



New Venue 'The Select Stadium' Widnes (Conference Centre)

The centre is an excellent venue for such evenings with all facilities on one level, and free parking outside the front door! Tea and coffee will be served.

We have listened to the feedback!

Do please read on and make the effort to attend. It is an expectation from the Bishop of Warrington that Readers should make every effort to be at the study evenings as part of the re-licensing process. Thanks to Rod for planning such a creative, thought provoking and timely event.

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Title: We Belong Here: Cosmos, Community, Church, Christ



Dates: June 10 `June 17 June 24 `July 1

Themes 'The Journey of the Universe', 'A Church for Others' Marking the Time and the Christian Year', and 'Alpha and Omega: The Finality of Christ'

Modern times have been described by one commentator as 'The Great Disruption' – a profoundly unsettling period where divisions and dislocations of all sorts make many feel they have no place and do not belong. **The sense of being an 'outsider' can also be a feature of church life when critics seek to push Christianity to the margins or dismiss religion in general as irrelevant or harmful.**

These Summer Study evenings are an opportunity to instill confidence in the sense we have of belonging – that we do have a right to be here and that as a Church we can also make a difference by helping others to belong. The evenings will work on a broad canvas, highlighting how we fit in the broad scheme of things and how we need to act and think differently in the light of what we know about our universe and our communities. They will also challenge us to look again at the familiar - the cycles and season of the Christian year and the deep mystery that is bound up with the finality of Christ.

The final meeting will conclude with an act of worship to draw together what has been shared over the Course. An exciting opportunity in prospect that will appeal to the heart, mind and imagination and encourage. An event not to be missed!



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AGM / Licensing Service - Saturday 27th Sept 2014

Please do come along and support those being licensed into this ministry, and also the work of the committee on your behalf at the AGM. More details to follow later in the year.

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And now for something completely different - AGAIN! Bishop's Diocesan Reader Conference 16th November 2014 (Formerly Reader Training Day)

New Venue: The Select Stadium Widnes

Speaker: Dean of Liverpool Cathedral Very Rev. Dr. Pete Wilcox

Arthur Cooper does such sterling work in arranging this event. Last year the Bishop of Sodor and Man was our guest speaker for the day. What a great day that was. This year Arthur has managed to book the Very Rev. Dr. Pete Wilcox, Dean of Liverpool Cathedral. Again an event and certainly a speaker not to be missed. As with the summer study evenings, it is an expectation from the Bishop of Warrington that Readers should make every effort to be at this Conference as part of the re-licensing process.

Over 100 years of Reader Ministry in the Liverpool Diocese

Although official records only go back as far as 1914, we know there were Readers serving well before that time. More details of Thanksgiving and Celebration coming shortly.

And finally:

Please pray for the work of the Reader Committee, the Training department, lecturers, candidates and each other as Readers, that God may indeed inspire us all by His Holy Spirit to continue to work for His glory. Amen

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THE WEBSITE

Please keep an eye on our website www.liverpoolcathedral.org/readers If you have any meetings for events coming up please let us know, date, venue, times and this can be put on the website and also facebook. Also if you have any photographs of yourself in your reader role please send them in and they can go on our facebook page.

I am continually inspired by your dedication and devotion and pray that God will bless you and your families.



CENTRAL READERS COUNCIL

Please keep an eye on the Central Readers Council website for future information.
www.readers.cofe.anglican.org

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

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